

EGG YOLK SEPARATOR

The present invention relates to an egg yolk separator.

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Egg yolk separators are generally known, which typically has a portion for retaining an egg yolk and apertures for straining egg white therefrom. They are usually available
10 in the form of a piece of handheld implement like a ladle or provided with a base for collecting egg white.

The invention seeks to provide an improved egg yolk separator that is more convenient to use.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention, there is provided an egg yolk separator including a strainer having a portion for
20 retaining an egg yolk and apertures for straining egg white therefrom. A pair of supports extends in opposite directions from the strainer for resting on opposite sides of a top opening of a vessel to locate the overall separator thereon. A first of the supports is extendable
25 and retractable in length such that the length of the overall separator is adjustable to suit the width of said vessel opening.

Preferably, the first support has a first section connected to the strainer and a second section slidably engaged lengthwise with the first section.

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More preferably, the second section comprises a sleeve surrounding the first section such that the two sections inter-engage in a telescopic manner.

10 It is an advantage that the first support includes frictional engaging means provided between the first and the second sections for holding them at a desired length.

In a first preferred embodiment, the frictional engaging
15 means comprise at least one resiliently deformable protrusion and a co-operating track provided at the two sections respectively, against which track the protrusion slidably bears upon resilient deformation.

20 More preferably, the second section comprises a sleeve surrounding the first section such that the two sections are inter-engaged in a telescopic manner, the first section including the protrusion and the second section including the track.

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Further more preferably, the first section includes two said protrusions on opposite outer sides thereof bearing

resiliently against respective said tracks internally of the second section.

In a second preferred embodiment, the frictional engaging means comprise a resiliently supported protrusion and a co-operating groove provided at the two sections respectively, against interior of which groove the protrusion slidably and resiliently bears.

More preferably, the second section comprises a sleeve surrounding the first section such that the two sections are inter-engaged in a telescopic manner, the first section including the groove and the second section including the protrusion.

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Further more preferably, the groove has two relatively deeper parts at opposite ends thereof, with either one of which the protrusion is inter-engageable.

20 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The invention will now be more particularly described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

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Figure 1 is a top plan view of an embodiment of an egg yolk separator in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional side view of the egg yolk separator of Figure 1, taken along line II-II;

5 Figure 3 is a cross-sectional end view of the egg yolk separator of Figure 1, taken along line III-III; and

Figure 4 is an exposed perspective view of the egg yolk separator of Figure 1.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings, there is shown an egg yolk separator 10 embodying the invention, which comprises a
15 strainer 100 and two support arms 200 and 300 extending in diametrically opposite directions integrally from the strainer 100 for resting on opposite sides of a top opening of a vessel, such as a mixing bowl, to locate the separator 10 thereon. The strainer 100 has a central
20 portion 110 for retaining an egg yolk and various apertures 120 for straining egg white therefrom. The first arm 200 is extendable and retractable in length such that the length of the overall separator 10 is adjustable to suit the width of the bowl opening. All
25 these components are moulded from plastics material.

The first arm 200 has a first section 210 fixedly

connected to the strainer 100 and a second section 220
slidably engaged lengthwise with the first section 210.
The stationary section 210 is a straight flat strip 210.
The slidable section 220 is a straight sleeve 220
5 surrounding the stationary section 210 such that the two
sections 210 and 220 inter-engage in a telescopic manner,
with the slidable section 220 being extendable and
retractable lengthwise relative to the stationary section
210. The second arm 300 is considerably shorter than the
10 first arm 200, including a downwardly facing hook 310 for
locating upon one side of the bowl opening.

The slidable section 220 of the first arm 200 is formed
by upper and lower shells 221 and 225 that are secured
15 together by ultrasonic welding or glue for example. The
two shells 221 and 225 define a flat rectangular-
sectioned channel that encloses and receives the
stationary section 210 as a slide fit. The stationary
section 210 has, at its free end, a pair of small
20 protrusions 212 on opposite left and right sides thereof.
Opposite left and right inner surfaces of the lower shell
225 provide a pair of slightly recessed tracks 226 co-
extending lengthwise of the shell 225, which accommodate
the protrusions 212 and against which the protrusions 212
25 slidably bear.

Each protrusion 212 has an end 211 integrally connected

to the stationary section 210, which is resiliently deformable such that the protrusion 212 is pressed inwards upon engaging the corresponding track 226. The engagement between the protrusions 212 and the co-
5 operating tracks 226 on opposite sides provides proactive friction that holds the stationary and slidable sections 210 and 220 at a desired length of the first arm 200. The fully extended and retracted positions of the slidable section 220 relative to the stationary section 210 are
10 defined by protrusions 212 reaching opposite ends of the corresponding tracks 226.

The first arm stationary section 210 includes, centrally and longitudinally in its upper surface, a shallow groove
15 213 that is relatively deeper at opposite ends to define two dips 214. The slidable section 220 includes, depending centrally from the innermost end of its upper shell 221, a round bump 222 that engages the groove 213. The bump 222 bears resiliently against the inner surface
20 of the groove 213 as the part of upper shell 221 supporting the bump 222 is marginally deformed as a result of the engagement. This provides additional frictional holding of the slidable section 220 in position relative to the stationary section 210, whereby
25 the length of the first arm 200 is better maintained.

At either the fully extended or retracted position of the

slidable section 220, the bump 222 inter-engages or snaps with the dip 214 at the relevant end of the groove 213. Although the resulting engagement of the bump 222 with the dip 214 is relatively weak, it helps to maintain
5 either end position of the slidable section 220, especially the fully retracted position when the separator 10 is not in use.

The lower shell 225 of the arm section 220 is thickened
10 downwardly at opposite ends 227 to form a broad recess therebetween for engaging the opposite side of the bowl opening, with the hook 310 of the other arm 300 locating upon one side thereof. By including the recess, the arm section 220 may act as a handle so that the separator 10
15 can conveniently be held by hand for use.

Two different forms of frictional engagement are provided between the protrusions 212 and the tracks 226 and between the bump 222 and the groove 213, which preferably
20 but not necessarily co-exist. In the case where the bowl is small, the adjustable arm 200 should be retracted to keep balance of the separator 10 on the bowl.

The invention has been given by way of example only, and
25 various other modifications of and/or alterations to the described embodiment may be made by persons skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention as

specified in the appended claims.